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PERISCOPE

Plot to Kill Khalid

Western intelligence sources in the Mideast say Swedish leftists and Palestinians affiliated with the Ahmad Jibril terrorist group planned to assassinate King Khalid of Saudi Arabia on June 18 while he was in West Germany. For unknown reasons, the plot was aborted. West German officials deny knowledge of the conspiracy. But late last month Swedish agents arrested four Swedes, who had recently been in West Germany, trying to smuggle Syrian guns, grenades and dynamite into Sweden. Swedish authorities have not yet linked the arrests and the alleged plot, but they say a widespread investigation is under way.

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Was It a Nuclear Device?

The Defense Intelligence Agency has concluded that the mysterious flash detected off the coast of South Africa last September was a 1- to 3-kiloton nuclear device. But a panel of scientists commissioned by the White House will soon release a report stating that "the event" was most likely caused by a natural phenomenon—possibly a freak collision between a meteoroid and the U.S. Vela satellite that registered the signal. The scientists claim there is no corroborative evidence to indicate that a nuclear explosion occurred. The DIA, which has investigated the mysterious signal for nine months, counters that an absence of corroboration is precisely what any nation would try to guarantee if it were secretly testing a nuclear device.